

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cell holding electrode arrangement comprising a hollow electrode sheath open at a cell-contact tip wherein said sheath surrounds at least one elongated electrode needle provided with a plurality of sensing electrodes, wherein at least one electrode is arranged at the proximity of the cell contact tip such that it, when a cell is held at the cell-contact tip, is arranged to penetrate the cell membrane of said cell, further wherein at least one other electrode is arranged at a distance from the cell contact tip such that it, when a cell is held at the cell-contact tip, is arranged to not penetrate the cell membrane of said cell, and wherein the open end of the hollow electrode sheet at the cell-contact tip has a diameter of between 0.1-0.8 mm.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The cell holding electrode arrangement of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said needle does not extend beyond the cell-contact tip of said sheath.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of claim 1, wherein said needle is provided with a cell-removal preventing device.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of claim 1, wherein said needle is provided with a non-ion-conducting sealing compound.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of claim 1, wherein said sheath is arranged inside a well.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of claim 1, wherein said sheath is coupled to an automated manipulating device.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for positioning electrodes inside a cell comprising the steps of:

positioning a cell at the cell contact tip of a cell holding electrode arrangement that includes a hollow electrode sheath open at a cell-contact tip wherein the sheath surrounds at least one elongated electrode needle provided with a plurality of sensing electrodes, wherein at least one electrode is arranged at the proximity of the cell contact tip and at least one other electrode at a distance from the cell contact tip, and wherein the open end of the hollow electrode sheet at the cell-contact tip has a diameter of between 0.1-0.8 mm; and

penetrating the cell using the cell electrode holding arrangement such that said at least one electrode arranged at the proximity of the cell contact-tip penetrate the cell membrane of the cell, and such that said at least one other electrode arranged at a distance from the cell contact tip does not penetrate the cell membrane of said cell.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein positioning a cell further comprises pushing said cell onto the electrode needle.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of Claim 7 wherein positioning a cell comprises applying a suction to the cell to pull the cell onto the electrode needle.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of Claim 7 further comprising applying a suction to the cell based on a predetermined conductivity measurement.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of Claim 7 further comprising: identifying a change in conductivity between the cell and the sensing electrode; and positioning the cell based on the change in conductivity.

Claims 12-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A cell holding electrode arrangement comprising a hollow electrode sheath open at a cell-contact tip wherein said sheath surrounds a plurality of elongated electrode needles each provided with at least one sensing electrode, wherein at least one electrode needle is arranged at the proximity of the cell contact tip such that it, when a cell is held at the cell-contact tip, is arranged to penetrate the cell membrane of said cell, wherein at least one other electrode needle is arranged at a distance from the cell

contact tip such that it, when a cell is held at the cell-contact tip, is arranged to not penetrate the cell membrane of said cell , and wherein the open end of the hollow electrode sheet at the cell-contact tip has a diameter of between 0.1-0.8 mm.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of Claim 14 wherein at least one of said needles comprises a barbed device to retain the cell on said needle.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of Claim 14 wherein at least one of said needles comprises a tapered ring to retain said cell on said needle.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of Claim 14 further comprising a vacuum pump, said vacuum pump creating a vacuum within said sheath based on a measured conductivity.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of Claim 14 further comprising a reference electrode, said cell holding arrangement configured to create a vacuum in said sheath based on a conductivity change measured between the reference electrode and said sensing electrode.

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The cell holding electrode arrangement of Claim 14 further comprising a strengthening tube positioned in said sheath and surrounding said plurality of electrode needles, said strengthening tube configured to prevent buckling of said electrode needles.